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**Thursday**  
AUGUST 18, 2016

★ **FREE** ★

A Chicago Tribune  
publication

Deal with your  
'commitment  
issues' **4**

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robbery tale  
gets weirder **6**

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Giant in Logan  
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# CALLING CRAIG

**FUNNYMAN CRAIG ROBINSON GETS SERIOUS  
(BUT NOT TOO SERIOUS) FOR THE INDIE HIT  
'MORRIS FROM AMERICA' PAGES 8-9**



BY SAMANTHA NELSON FOR REDEYE | REDEYE@REDEYECHICAGO.COM » GET MORE SPONTANEOUS EAT. DRINK. DO. IDEAS AT REDEYECHICAGO.COM



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# Rivertalk

REPORT OUTLINES VISION FOR CLEANER,  
MORE ACCESSIBLE RIVERS IN CHICAGO

By **Leonor Vivanco** | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Tourists often take architectural boat tours on the Chicago River alongside kayakers and water taxis. People relax, sip on a cocktail and even fish from the riverwalk. Now imagine swimmers in the water.

That's one of the activities envisioned for Chicago-area rivers in a report released Wednesday by the Metropolitan Planning Council.

The nonprofit group surveyed more than 6,000 people over 18 months—including real estate developers, river users and other stakeholders—to come up with a vision for the future of the Chicago, Calumet and Des Plaines rivers and 150 miles of riverfront. The report outlines ways to make the three rivers more accessible, inviting and cleaner by 2020, 2030 and 2040.

Recommendations include a continuous riverfront trail system to connect communities with the waterways, more recreational and retail opportunities, and improved water quality for swimmers and the many species of fish, reptiles and mammals that call the rivers home.

"We know people want to see rejuvenation along the riverfronts. To be frank, we also know not everything is going great in Chicago right now. What a document like this does is show that we have a vision for a future that is better than today," said Josh Ellis, project lead and director at the Metropolitan Planning Council.

The report, issued in conjunction with other

civic organizations and government agencies as partners, does not address the cost of the recommendations, or how they would be funded. Finances could be a hurdle in a city that is saddled with debt.

The report was designed to motivate investment, show how the rivers can be assets, help inform future decision-makers about what's best for the rivers, establish priorities and inspire stewardship, Ellis said.

"I feel that there are many entities—government, nongovernment, individual people, community organizations—who helped write this and helped shape this. So that gives me hope they will be emotionally invested in seeing it happen, and that will lead to them being financially invested," Ellis said.

Another obstacle is the cleanliness of the river. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2011 demanded that the water on stretches of the Chicago River be clean and safe enough for recreational activities such as swimming. But the rivers aren't there yet and probably won't be clean enough to swim in for some time, said Josh Mogerman, spokesman for the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group.

"Swimming in any of the city's rivers right

now is definitely a bad idea because there's a long legacy of contamination," he said, adding that heavy metals are among the muck at the bottom of the rivers.

Testing by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, the taxpayer-funded agency that handles Cook County sewage and stormwater, last summer revealed high levels of bacteria from human waste at more than a dozen spots in the Chicago River stretching through the North Side and downtown to Bridgeport. Levels of disease-causing germs routinely exceeded state standards for recreational waterways, the testing showed.

But the MWRD has taken steps recently, after years of legal battles, to fully treat the wastewater at treatment plants before pouring it into the rivers, Mogerman said.

Mayor Emanuel has undertaken several large river-focused projects since becoming mayor, from the massive construction of a downtown riverwalk to installation of several boathouses to try to open up stretches of the water for kayak rentals and other recreational activities.

The mayor sees turning the rivers into "Chicago's backyard," a counterpoint to the lakefront front yard, as a potential legacy project. He frequently mentions the river when touting his accomplishments. The riverwalk, financed by federal loans, was an idea first hatched during Mayor Richard M. Daley's administration.

The river rehabilitation also fits into the

"We know people want to see rejuvenation along the riverfronts. To be frank, we also know not everything is going great in Chicago right now. What a document like this does is show that we have a vision for a future that is better than today."

— **Josh Ellis**, project lead and director at the Metropolitan Planning Council

post-industrialization of Chicago that Emanuel covets, alongside endeavors such as the transformation of a derelict train line into the popular 606 park.

The new report opens the door to think of how property along the rivers could spur economic development—not just for industrial uses but retail opportunities, such as having small vendors sell food or rent fishing gear or watercraft at Bubbly Creek near Bridgeport, much like the concessions on the lakefront. Also noted in the report is the need to create healthy ecosystems and improve the habitats for many species of fish, reptiles and mammals.

The next step is to determine which agencies and nonprofits could work together to start to turn the vision into reality, lay the groundwork on the planning process and explore funding sources.

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## threesome

### 3 PERSPECTIVES ON ONE RELATIONSHIP QUESTION

Welcome to "Threesome." Each week, we'll take a look at a relationship question from the public and have three panelists give their insights. Have a question to ask? Shoot it over to us on Twitter at @redeyechicago or on our Facebook page. If it's a little more private, feel free to email it to [redeye@redeyechicago.com](mailto:redeye@redeyechicago.com) with the word "Threesome" in the subject line.

I'm a 23-year-old male who has recently found out I have commitment issues. I always start to like a girl and then do everything in my power to get to her and then after we've dated for a month or so, I completely lose interest and get out of the relationship. I have no idea why I do this or how to work on it. —Question via Reddit, edited for length



**Jake  
Newton**

In a relationship, 24

» RedEye designer  
» @jnewt

Don't be a dong, dude. You've got to realize that by starting these relationships and then abruptly ending them, you're really screwing with the emotions of these ladies. It's just not fair to the other person involved. If you ONLY enjoy the chase, maybe you need to understand yourself a bit more before pursuing another relationship.

What makes you enjoy the race, but not the reward? What scares you about being involved with someone? What's so terrible about dating someone? You get the point—this is a you problem. Take some time off and reassess. As it is, you have become an emotional serial killer, and you need to knock it off. I'm completely sympathetic to the "fight is better than the reward" sentiment—trust me, I'm someone who enjoyed building card houses as a child—but you need to realize that relationships aren't games. You're going to have to grow up: Rumpus time is over.



**Shelbie Lynn  
Bostedt**

Single, 22

» RedEye digital content  
coordinator  
» @shelbielbostedt

If you recognize this pattern in yourself, it could help you to think about where this fear of commitment may have come from. Are your parents divorced? Did you have a messy relationship previously? Having "commitment issues" isn't something you just "find out" about yourself with no cause or reason. There's also the

likelihood that these women you're dating just aren't the right person for you. Once you get to know a woman more, you may realize you aren't as compatible for a whole host of reasons, the least of which may be your perceived fear of commitment. Before you jump into your next month-long relationship, be sure that's really what you want before you pull the "commitment issues" douchebag line and break a girl's heart.



**Isaac  
Paul**

In a relationship, 36

» Host, devil's advocate  
and resident know-it-all  
of "The Tequila Tales"  
» @thetequilatales

First I'll state the obvious, many 23-year-olds aren't known for their "stick-to-it-ness." However, the main thing you must decide is if you are truly into the women you are dating. Lack of commitment is often an indication that there is some important need or desire that isn't being met inside your interaction.

If you are in fact dating women you desire to have stronger relations with, I suggest you intentionally lengthen the courtship process by slowing it down. People are less likely to withdraw from something they've invested in. Slowing your courtship allows you to develop stronger feelings that will maintain your interest. So start by doubling or even tripling the number of dates you typically have before reaching pivotal moments (like intimacy) that trigger your "commitment issues." If this doesn't work, you may be dating women who don't challenge you enough. So aim higher.



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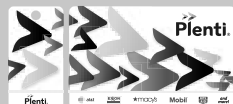
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**RIO 2016**

**olympics**

**DAY 13**

**MEDAL COUNT**

Country				T
1. USA	28	30	28	86
2. China	17	15	20	52
3. Great Britain	19	19	12	50

(As of 7:15 p.m. Wednesday)

**Strange turn**

**AUTHORITIES AREN'T SURE AMERICAN SWIMMERS WERE ROBBED AFTER ALL**



Ryan Lochte GETTY IMAGES

#### Tribune news services

A Brazilian judge has ordered that the passports of American Olympic swimmers Ryan Lochte and James Feigen be seized after differences emerged in their accounts of an armed robbery they said they and two other swimmers suffered last weekend.

However, Steve Lochte, Ryan Lochte's dad, said the swimmer is already back in the United States.

He told The Associated Press by phone from his Florida home that his son called him Tuesday after arriving in the U.S. The 32-year-old swimmer was going to pick up his car and buy a new wallet to replace the one that he said was stolen from him in the robbery.

It is unclear whether the other athletes are in Brazil; in a statement, the U.S. Olympic Committee declined to disclose their whereabouts.

Judge Keyla Blanc de Cnop ruled that there were "possible divergences" in the versions both swimmers had given police of the robbery.

In a statement released on the court's website Wednesday, Blanc said that in Lochte's testimony to police, he said the athletes had been stopped in the early hours of Aug. 14 by one robber, who demanded all their money (\$400). Blanc said that Feigen, however, said the athletes were surprised by some robbers, but that only one was armed.

The swimmers had been at a birthday celebration and dance party at Club France, an Olympic hospitality venue beside the Rodrigo de Freitas lagoon, with Thiago Pereira, a

Brazilian swimmer, and Pereira's wife, Gabriela Pauletti. Pereira and his wife left the party before the Americans, who told police they caught a taxi at a nearby gas station.

Lochte told NBC that he and three other swimmers, including Feigen, were robbed when their taxi was stopped after leaving the dance party. The three other swimmers were made to lie on the ground, but Lochte refused to join them.

"And then the guy pulled out his gun, he cocked it, put it to my forehead and he said, 'Get down,' and I put my hands up. I was like, 'Whatever,'" he said.

Another doubt highlighted by the Brazilian judge concerns the time the swimmers reached the athletes village. Security camera footage obtained by the Daily Mail shows them passing through a security check just before 7 a.m., at least four hours after they were supposed to have left the party. In the footage, Lochte jokingly hit Feigen over the head with his Olympic credential.

"It was perceived that the supposed victims arrived with their physical and psychological integrity unshaken, even making jokes with each other," the judge said, according to the court statement.

"Local police arrived at the Olympic Village this a.m. and asked to meet with Ryan Lochte and James Feigen and collect their passports in order to secure further testimony from the athletes. The swim team moved out of the village after their competition ended, so we

#### OLYMPIC OFFICIAL ARRESTED FOR TICKET SCALPING

A senior International Olympic official was taken to a hospital Wednesday after police came to his hotel to arrest him as part of a probe into ticket scalping.

International Olympic Committee spokesman Mark Adams said that Ireland's Patrick Hickey, a member of the IOC's executive board, was in the hospital. Hickey is accused of plotting with at least six others to illegally sell tickets for the Rio de Janeiro Olympics, Rio police said.

Hickey, 71, is president of the Olympic Council of Ireland as well as president of the European Olympic Committees, and he has served on the IOC executive board since 2012.

were not able to make the athletes available," said Patrick Sandusky, chief external affairs officer of the U.S. Olympic Committee, in an email.

"Additionally, as part of our standard security protocol, we do not make athlete travel plans public and therefore cannot confirm the athletes' current location. We will continue to cooperate with Brazilian authorities.

On Tuesday Rio police said they found little evidence supporting the swimmers' claim.

THE WASHINGTON POST AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS CONTRIBUTED.



The United States' Evan Jager trails Kenya's Conseslus Kipruto in the men's 3,000-meter steeplechase final on Wednesday. AP



# U.S. track athletes say bye to medal droughts

By Chris Sosa | REDEYE

Mo Olympics, mo problems? We've definitely seen some of the murky issues of the games the past few days. Fortunately, there are plenty of positive stories to focus on. Here's the best and worst of Day 12 and what you should be watching Thursday.

**WE LOVED IT WHEN ...**  
**Evan Jager leaped to silver.** The Chicago-area native took silver in the steeplechase, marking the highest U.S. finish since 1952. "It was indescribable," the 27-year-old told the Tribune. "It was a lot of years of hard work and daydreaming and dreaming about the moment all coming true and being able to truly enjoy the moment and those emotions and experiences."  
"I was completely calm. I didn't know that I had a medal wrapped up basically in my head until I had 100 meters to go. As soon as I got over that last barrier, I could fully enjoy it. That was very fun."

**Christian Taylor gave a shout-out to his grandmother.** The gold medalist in the triple jump was thrilled to have his grandmother as his extra special guest in Rio, as she rarely gets on a plane. She's also the one who provides his strength, in a matter of speaking. "I saw her yesterday and she was shaking with joy," he told NBC's Rebecca Lowe. "Sampson had his hair and this is my bracelet and my necklace. When I compete, it kind of keeps me humble and reminds me of where I've been." Awwwww.

**WE HATED IT WHEN ...**  
**Integrity took a hit.** AIBA, international boxing's governing body, has sent home several judges and referees amid suspicions some bouts were fixed. It's bad enough that this allegedly happens in prominent professional fights, but now it's poisoning the Olympics? Say it ain't so.

**Team USA's equestrian athletes had to compete shorthanded.** U.S. rider Beezie Madden, a four-time Olympian, had to withdraw because her horse, Cortes C, suffered a tendon injury Tuesday. She handled the situation the right way, of course, as the horse's health is more

important. That meant Madden's teammates did not have the luxury of throwing out their worst score in the team jumping event. But you know what? They ended up winning silver anyway. That's clutch.

**WATCH THIS**  
*The best of the Olympics on Thursday*

**Volleyball**  
The last thing the U.S. women want to do is breathe a sigh of relief after their chief rival, Brazil, bowed out in the quarterfinals. That's what Serbia, the Americans' opponent in Thursday's semifinal, wants them to do. Don't do it! (11 a.m.)

**Track and field**  
If you're a morning person, keep an eye on the preliminary heats of the men's and women's 4x100-meter relays. (7:30 a.m.) Later, settle in for the latest showdown between Usain Bolt and American Justin Gatlin, this one in the final of the 200 meters. Expect another Bolt win, but it will be fun to watch nonetheless. (4:35 p.m.)

**WORD OF THE DAY**  
**Undefeated**  
American wrestler Adeline Gray, a three-time world champion, has not lost in international competition in the past two years. The 25-year-old will put that record on the line at the Olympics beginning Thursday in the 75 kg division of the freestyle competition.  
"I'm a lights-and-camera-person," Gray told **TeamUSA.org**. "The second that the stakes start to get high, I seem to get more focused and more driven. I know what my job is, and I know what it takes for me to accomplish that." (Competition begins at 8 a.m.)

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By Lauren Chival | REDEYE

About halfway through “Morris from America,” 13-year-old Morris (Markees Christmas) pulls a sweater belonging to his crush over a pillow and slow-dances with it before leaning in for a kiss. Writer-director Chad Hartigan isn’t too embarrassed to admit the scene was inspired by real life. “That pillow thing is 100 percent me,” Hartigan said. “When I was 12, I just went through a humping my pillow phase, which was normal for boys at the time. At one point I just got bored and was like, ‘How can I spice this up?’ So I put some of my clothes on it and slow-danced with it.” At least one of Hartigan’s stars in the Sundance Film Festival darling can relate. “I used to hump the floor. Like straight,” added Craig Robinson, who plays Morris’ father, Curtis. “I’d be down on the floor with my head to the door so nobody could get in.” In the film, Curtis is a widowed soccer coach who relocates to Germany with his reluctant son. Unlike his new classmates, Morris doesn’t like EDM, he doesn’t like learning German and he doesn’t like the jerk kids at the local youth center.

But he does like Katrin (Lina Keller), the slightly dangerous 15-year-old blonde who offers to be his friend. Robinson’s mother taught high school and often brought him along on student trips, meaning he was “constantly around older girls that I was attracted to.” For Hartigan, Katrin is another example of art imitating life. She’s based on his first crush, a girl whose name he has no trouble remembering: Kelly Adams. “[She was] the real first girl I fell in love with, who did love me back, but as a friend,” Hartigan said. “We had the kind of relationship where we would talk on the phone every night and then be like, ‘I love you, I love you,’ and send each other notes during school. Mine would be like, ‘You’re an angel sent from heaven,’ and she’d write back, ‘Thanks. Wasn’t I’m cute today?’” “Tim was cute today,” Robinson teased. Like Kelly Adams, Keller is blond, and Hartigan jokingly suggested it might have been that quality that gave her an edge over the other actress they considered for Katrin, who was a brunette. What is it with boys and blondes? “The reason I cast Lina was a self tape because

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lyrics about screwing girls, he accuses his son of not being honest in his art. For Robinson, whose career has consisted of primarily comedy, working on “Morris from America” was a chance to be a little more artistically open, an experience he previously most typically found while playing with his band. “That’s when I’m at my rawest. When I’m performing with the band. It’s just like the groove is going, whether we’re fast or slow, I can just transport myself,” the Chicago native said. “In acting, you get to that place where it’s serene, where you just feel it. I’m glad to be doing the drama because you can kind of take your time more and let a moment live more.” As Curtis, Robinson tackles a role as a father, but also as a man struggling to adapt to his new life in a foreign country and a reality that doesn’t include his wife. The respect between Curtis and Morris is mutual, and sometimes the two seem more like friends than father and son.



“He had to take on the role of toeing that line and figuring out who he is as a single parent who’s also both parents,” Robinson said. “A response I’ve been getting is ‘I wish that was my dad.’ ... I really dug their relationship because he didn’t resort to smacking him or anything, and he respected him as a person. It’s like, look, OK, I’m going to chill, you chill out too.” Hartigan said Curtis was written as his idealized version of how he imagines he’d be as a dad. “When I imagine what makes a good parent, what would I do, it would be like in that car scene, for example,” he said. “Curtis knows he’s going to ground him. He could lead with that. He could be like, ‘All right, you’re in this much trouble.’ But that’s going to come. He just feels like it’s maybe better to lead with this other thing and just have that patience and that understanding. But I can totally admit if a real parent wants to be like, ‘Pff, good luck having that after 13 years.’” Both in creation and in story, realism is key to “Morris from America,” but Hartigan admitted that he didn’t want to be so committed to reality that he missed out on opportunities to tell a bigger story. Truth can sometimes be revealed in

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# SMALL SPACE, huge TASTE

GIANT IS A MASSIVE HIT IN LOGAN SQUARE

By Michael Nigrant | FOR REDEYE

Visions of maple-glazed crispy pig ears have been dancing in my head for years since I tried them at chef Jason Vincent's now-defunct Nightwood in Pilsen. They were one of those iconic Chicago dishes, like Avec's bacon-wrapped dates or Alinea's black truffle explosion. But as of 2015, they were no more. Though he was named a Food & Wine magazine best new chef (the equivalent of an Oscar in the culinary world), Vincent went into semi-retirement to raise his two young children. But it was only a matter of time before he re-emerged, and earlier this year he announced a partnership with Josh Perlman (Avec) and chef de cuisine Ben Lustbader to open Giant in Logan Square. I stopped in recently to see if his new venture could hold its own.

## Humble brag, minus the brag

As a new food writer, I was obsessed with Paul Kahan and Blackbird. The first time I interviewed him, I would have asked for his autograph on a slice of bacon had I not been

so nervous. The thing I loved about Kahan was how he cooked what was then called new American cuisine like an Asian chef, seeking balance across all flavors.

Vincent has recently taken a seat next to Kahan in my heart (and stomach). Like Kahan, he's humble. When I asked if the name Giant was a metaphor for what he hoped the restaurant would become or how great it was, he fervently responded: "No. Not at all. I don't want people to think that. I was reading [Shel Silverstein's] 'Where the Sidewalk Ends' to my daughter and she loved that poem ['Me and My Giant']. I think you can anthropomorphize a space, and when we found our current space, which was tiny, it felt like a bit of an ironic fit calling it Giant."

## Hot and bothered

As much as I love Vincent's cooking, I also love air conditioning. My parents raised me

in a house cooled to a constant 68 degrees. If I'm away from electric cooling for too long, I sweat like a glass of champagne in the Sahara. The night I visited Giant, it was 87 degrees and the air conditioning struggled.

Despite the cooling problems, the room—which features a wall of sharp angular wood inlays, patchwork-style yellow- and gray-quilted banquettes and menu boards with leather straps that allow them to hang on the side of your table should you want to order multiple rounds of food (and you will)—is pretty cool. The dining room isn't for everyone. If you're one of those people who grumbles about shuffling around and bumping fellow diners at Avec, you might have a tough time at Giant.

A pair of Gramovox vertical floating record players hover over the kitchen pass. Throughout the night, the staff curates vinyl hits from folks like Curtis Mayfield and Color Me Badd. And frankly, there's

no better soundtrack for eating sea urchin gonads (more on those later) than "I Wanna Sex You Up." Artwork includes a blown-up illustration and the first couple of stanzas from "Me and My Giant" as well as a painting of a woman strapping herself into an airplane seat while floating in mid-air.

## Pour some uni on me

It's an appropriate painting for the space as you'll want to strap in for the earth-shaking goodies at Giant. I quickly forgot about the pig ears and got on board with Vincent's new signature dish, the uni shooter (\$5): a deep-fried ball filled with sweetened condensed milk and uni (a.k.a. sea urchin roe) that explodes in your mouth like a water balloon teeming with funky candied custard. "We almost didn't do it because it's so of-the-moment. We didn't want to seem trendy," Vincent said. "But it's so good. We're selling like 60 or 70 of these a night."

We followed this up with fluffy biscuits (\$3 each) studded with glinting turbinado

### REVIEW Giant

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★★★★☆  
Off to a good start





sugar crystals dripping with jalapeno butter, a recipe that Mollie Hayward, one of Nightwood's old line cooks, used to prepare for staff meals. Having over-ordered in general, we were conservative here and stupidly requested only two biscuits to share for our table of four. Don't make the same mistake.

The charred carrots (\$10) dripped with uni butter, thai chili and tomato sofrito sauce, a crunchy hail of peanuts and flecks of scallion. The dish was so savory and mouth-coating, you'd swear it was doused in MSG. (For the record, I love MSG. I would snort it if I could, headaches be damned.) A dish called picci with chew (\$16), which sounds like a Pokémon Go character, was actually udon-like noodles that had a very satisfying bite. Tossed with bacon and glossy buttery fat, it ate like a carbonara with one very smart addition: "We griddle off jalapenos on our plancha or flat top and then soak them in apple cider vinegar and lemon juice to give the dish some acid. Acid is everything. It's life," Vincent said. "Unless we're talking about acid at a three-day Phish concert in Vegas. That's not very good. Trust me."

There are also pecan-smoked ribs (\$18) slathered with a sauce made from 40 very precisely weighed and measured ingredients. This may sound cheffy and gourmet, but it results in a sticky-sweet lacquer with a bitter molasses counterbalance that Vincent should consider bottling (at least to pay for air conditioning). The ribs themselves weren't fall-off-the-bone baby food but a meaty plank with a firm chew. They were accompanied by baked beans, which was the only thing I didn't totally love. "That dish is sort of inspired by the vegetarian Heinz beans I used to eat at 3 a.m. from the pot after work," Vincent said. Though he nailed the nostalgia play and they do taste like Heinz beans, I've never been a baked

beans dude, and the dish didn't quite pop like everything else I tried.

### Perfect pairings

While some wine lists may be characterized as food-friendly, Giant's options—which include a lot of crisp and fruity whites—are straight-up BFFs with Vincent's food. I really liked a 2008 Richter Riesling Kabinett (\$11) that tasted of honey and pear. I also channeled my inner Carrie Bradshaw and ordered the Cosmopolitan (\$11). My wife looked at me like I'd just put on a mud mask, drawn a bubble bath and sidled up to the latest issue of Vogue, but when she tasted the elixir of gin, peach-infused Campari, vermouth and lemon juice, she was very jealous.

Throughout the meal, our server seemed overwhelmed, and we had to flag him down quite a few times to order extra rounds of drinks and more food. Unfortunately, our second round of drinks arrived after our dinner plates were cleared.

### Bottom line

There were some service challenges and an air conditioning snafu, but I'd honestly eat Vincent's food in a tent in the desert. He is one of Chicago's very best chefs, and the food he's putting out at Giant is some of the most satisfying, well-executed non-fussy stuff around. The menu, save for the beans, is universally excellent and rates better than any of the places I've given a full four stars to this year.

There are restaurants I review and restaurants I go to for personal pleasure. If you want to discover the city's best restaurants, ask a food critic where he or she celebrates birthdays or anniversaries. Giant is a place I will return to over and over when I'm not on the clock. **MICHAEL NAGRANT IS A REDEYE CONTRIBUTOR. REPORTERS VISIT RESTAURANTS UNANNOUNCED, AND MEALS ARE PAID FOR BY REDEYE.**

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By Morgan Olsen | REDEYE

Step away from the Netflix marathon and find your way into one of these local theaters for a belly laugh this week. Your guide to Chicago's affordable and under-the-radar comedy scene awaits.

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#### THURSDAY 'Crushed'

**The Public House Theatre**  
3914 N. Clark St. 773-230-4770

Watch a rom-com unfold in real time at this sketch show in Lakeview. Each scene focuses on a different meet-cute or breakup—sometimes both—and explores the juiciest parts of a relationship. 8 p.m. \$10. Tickets: [thepubtheatre.com](http://thepubtheatre.com)

#### FRIDAY 'Sisters 4Ever'

**The Beat Lounge at Second City**  
230 W. North Ave. 312-337-3992

Leila Gorstein relives her days as a Jewish sorority sister at a Big Ten school in this one-woman show that explores chapter meetings, frat parties, pledging and all of the characters she met along the way. 7:30 p.m. \$13. Tickets: [secondcity.com](http://secondcity.com)

#### SATURDAY 'Relatively Meaningless'

**CiC Theater**  
1422 W. Irving Park Road 773-799-8506

Writer and performer Gina DeLuca reads from a collection of comedic essays about her life, including anecdotes about buying deli meat,

a trip to the emergency room in Switzerland and her relationship with television. 8 p.m. \$10. Tickets: [cictheater.com](http://cictheater.com)

#### 'Pew! Pew! Pew!'

**The pH Comedy Theater**  
1515 W. Berwyn Ave. 773-961-8214

You don't have to love science fiction to appreciate this show, but it certainly doesn't hurt. Explore themes sci-fi movie makers can't shake—children befriending aliens, futuristic products and more—through this weekly sketch show. 9:30 p.m. \$10-\$15. Tickets: [whatisph.com](http://whatisph.com)

#### SUNDAY Open Mic Comedy

**Will's Northwoods Inn**  
3030 N. Racine St. 773-528-4400

David Drake and Reena Calm host this weekly open mic night for performers in training and laugh seekers. Pro tip: Order the cheese curds. You won't regret it. 8-11 p.m. Registration starts at 7 p.m. Free.

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puzzles

9		8		2	7				
				4	5	6			
	5	4							3
			8	7	2	3	5		
	8	5	1	6	3				
	4						1	6	
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			7	3		8			9

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

8	4	1	7	3	5	6	2	9
2	9	5	1	8	6	4	7	3
3	7	6	9	2	4	5	8	1
1	8	7	2	4	9	3	6	5
4	6	2	5	7	3	9	1	8
9	5	3	8	6	1	7	4	2
5	3	4	6	1	2	8	9	7
6	1	8	3	9	7	2	5	4
7	2	9	4	5	8	1	3	6

WEDNESDAY'S SOLUTIONS

T	O	S	S	I	N	L	A	W	G	R	I	M
O	N	T	O	N	O	O	S	E	R	I	C	E
F	E	R	N	L	O	S	A	N	G	E	L	E
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S	I	G	H	E	D			C	A	N	Y	O
U	N	T	I	L		B	R	O	A	D	P	O
E	C	H	O		M	O	U	R	N		S	P
D	A	E		R	A	N	G	E		A	T	O
S	N	O	O	Z	E			C	L	A	S	S
			C	U	E			C	A	P	R	I
A	S	S	E	T		L	O	G	S		T	O
C	O	L	L	E	C	T	I	O	N		M	I
T	R	I	O		A	I	S	L	E		B	O
S	E	P	T		B	E	T	S	I		A	N

TODAY'S CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS

- » Singer **Mika**, 33
- » Actor **Malcolm-Jamal Warner**, 46
- » Actress **Madeleine Stowe**, 58
- » Actor **Andy Samberg**, 38
- » Actor **Edward Norton**, 47
- » Actor **Denis Leary**, 59
- » Actress **Kaitlin Olson**, 41
- » Actor **Christian Slater**, 47
- » Actor **Robert Redford**, 80

ACROSS

- 1 Actor \_ Perry
- 5 African nation
- 10 "Two heads are better \_ one"
- 14 As comfortable \_ old shoe
- 15 Felt miserable
- 16 Seldom seen
- 17 Broker's advice
- 18 Noisy fight
- 19 Charitable donation
- 20 Old sewing machine pedal
- 22 Neatest
- 24 Regret
- 25 \_ Peace Prize
- 26 Old saying
- 29 Reasonable bedtime
- 30 \_ B. DeMille
- 34 Thin coin
- 35 Crow's noise
- 36 Yacht dock
- 37 Initials for the phone inventor
- 38 Part of every week
- 40 Hydrogen or helium
- 41 Not as harsh
- 43 Prefix for wife or night
- 44 Walking stick
- 45 Big beer mug
- 46 Boy
- 47 Not as clothed
- 48 Large fruit
- 50 Tavern
- 51 Beside oneself
- 54 Bullfighter
- 58 No longer here
- 59 Capital of Afghanistan
- 61 Thick cord
- 62 Shacks
- 63 Fill with joy
- 64 Christmas \_; busy nights for Santa
- 65 "It is what \_"
- 66 Passover meal
- 67 Portable shelter

DOWN

- 1 Go on and on
- 9 Consumer
- 3 Hardy cabbage
- 4 Magnify
- 5 Actor Clark
- 6 Bring on board
- 7 Chicken \_ king
- 8 Isaac or Wayne
- 9 Speak without preparation
- 10 Mobile home
- 11 Vigorous
- 12 Weapons
- 13 Robin's home
- 21 \_ to; because of
- 23 Go bad
- 25 Cronkite or Brokaw
- 26 Last name for 2 U.S. presidents
- 27 Finger or toe

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21				22		23				
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45						46				47				
			48		49				50					
51	52	53					54				55	56	57	
58					59		60				61			
62					63						64			
65					66						67			

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# CHICAGO *Festa Italiana*



**AUG. 18-21**  
**TAYLOR STREET**

Thurs. 5-10pm | Fri. & Sat. 12-11pm  
Sun. 12-10pm

## *Oscar D'Angelo Stage*

### THURSDAY

8PM SAM FAZIO  
5:30PM ROSE COLELLA

### FRIDAY

8:30PM BREEZY RODIO  
(ITALY MEETS THE BLUES)  
6PM OUTCAST JAZZ BAND  
4PM FRANK LAMPHERE'S  
RAT PACK TRIO  
2PM THE REGULATORS  
NOON THE FRANK ROSSI GROUP

### SATURDAY

8PM SOCO 7  
6PM THE CHICAGO JAZZ ORCHESTRA  
FEATURING PAUL MARINARO  
3:30PM THE FLAT CATS SWING BAND  
1:30PM ANGEL SPICCIA  
NOON LA TOSCA

### SUNDAY

8:30PM JOHN MICHAEL COPPOLA  
7PM THE FOUR C NOTES  
4:30PM ANTHONY BRUNO ORCHESTRA  
2:30PM JOSIE FALBO  
12:30PM PAUL MARINARO TRIO  
NOON SICILIAN SERENADERS

## *Center Stage*

### THURSDAY

8PM CHICAGO DIAMOND TRIO  
5:30PM JOE POLICASTRO TRIO

### FRIDAY

8PM GOLD COAST ALL-STARs  
6PM COLE DEGENOVA

### SATURDAY

8:30PM THE RAT PACK RETURNS  
6:30PM ALFONSO PONTICELLI & BAND  
4:30PM DENISE TOMASELLO  
2:30PM ABIGAIL RICCARDS  
2:30 TRADIZIONE VIVENTE  
(IN PIAZZA) TARANTELLA DANCERS  
NOON STEVE TORRICO'S  
LAKESHORE SYNCOPATORS

### SUNDAY

8PM FRANCESCO MARINO  
6PM SOPRANO MARISA BUCHHEIT  
PRESENTS "SERENATA"  
4PM CONNIE MARSHALL/  
JOHNNY GABOR QUINTET  
2PM LISA ROTI  
NOON COAX & FOLKS

## *Rock Stage*

### THURSDAY

8PM MAGGIE SPEAKS  
6PM HELLO WEEKEND

### FRIDAY

8PM TOO WHITE CREW  
6PM STACHE

### SATURDAY

8PM 16 CANDLES  
6PM WEDDING BANNED  
4PM LIVE BAIT & THE BOBBERS  
2PM ONE HOT MESS  
NOON ROBBY CELESTIN

### SUNDAY

8PM 7TH HEAVEN  
6PM THE BOY BAND NIGHT  
4PM THE HAT GUYS  
2PM THE WINDBREAKERS  
NOON RADIO STARS

**FESTA DJ STAGE**  
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LOS ANGELES TIMES FILE

# gaga FOR NEW Gaga

Get excited, little monsters: Lady Gaga is releasing her first solo single in three years, "Perfect Illusion," in September. According to [pitchfork.com](#), the single is produced by Mark Ronson and Tame Impala's Kevin Parker. Gaga released her most recent album, "Artpop," in 2013 to mixed reviews. In other Gaga news, it was officially announced earlier this week that she'll be starring in Bradley Cooper's directorial debut, "A Star is Born," according to [vulture.com](#). You go, girl.

## THE DIGIT

**\$135M** That's how much the bankrupt Gawker Media sold for earlier this week to the Spanish-language television network Univision, according to [slate.com](#). The company had been saddled with debt after being sued by former wrestler Hulk Hogan after the company published his sex tape. Hogan, who had the financial backing of tech billionaire Peter Thiel, ultimately won a judgment of \$140 million. "I am pleased that our employees are protected and will continue their work under new ownership—disentangled from the legal campaign against the company," Gawker founder Nick Denton said in a statement. "We could not have picked an acquirer more devoted to vibrant journalism."

## THE QUOTE

"AS AN ACTOR, THE WAY I WAS TRAINED, MY JOB WAS TO OBSERVE LIFE AND TO OBSERVE OTHER PEOPLE, SO I USED TO WALK AROUND WITH MY HEAD UP, REALLY ENGAGED AND WATCHING PEOPLE. THE EFFECT OF CELEBRITY WAS THE ABSOLUTE OPPOSITE: IT MADE ME WANT TO HIDE UNDER A BASEBALL CAP AND NOT BE SEEN."

—**David Schwimmer**, on The Hollywood Reporter's "Awards Chatter" podcast, talking about his time on "Friends" and his difficulties adjusting to overnight stardom.

## Dancing queen

Keira Knightley has been tapped to play the Sugar Plum Fairy in Disney's live-action version of "The Nutcracker," according to [ew.com](#). Morgan Freeman and ballerina extraordinaire Misty Copeland had already been attached in unspecified roles to the project, which will be titled "The Nutcracker and the Four Realms." We're maybe a little bit confused as to why the biggest dancing part (in the traditional story, anyway) was given to nondancer Knightley instead of the fabulous Copeland, but whatever. They made it work with "Black Swan."



## Sad news

Arthur Hiller, who directed the 1970 Oscar-nominated film "Love Story," died Wednesday in Los Angeles at the age of 92, according to [deadline.com](#). Hiller also directed films including "The Americanization of Emily" and "Silver Streak" and served as the president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences from 1993 to 1997. "We are deeply saddened by the passing of our beloved friend Arthur Hiller," current Academy president Cheryl Boone Isaacs said. "I was a member of the Board during his presidency and fortunate enough to witness firsthand his dedication to the Academy and his lifelong passion for visual storytelling. Our condolences go out to his loved ones."

AP

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